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Mr. Oliver Thornton

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MACTE VIRTUTE
DOWN
MEMORY
LANE
OLD GOLD and MAROON

GRADUATING CLASS JUNE 17, 1909

CHARLES SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL
Saint Louis, Missouri

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

PHYLLIS WHEATLEY BRANCH YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
2709 Locust Street

June 6, 1959 -- 6 P.M.

VIRGIL

1704

WOOD

NEW

LANE

OLD

1704

1704

1704

PREFACE

This is a collection of REMINISCENCES by the late Birdie Arbuckle Price and BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES by Julia Davis.

Information about our teachers was secured through personal interviews, correspondence, and research.

On the eve of our departure from Old Sumner High, as high school students, we came to know two faculty members, Mr. E.D. Hamilton and Mr. Fred P. Blair who were destined to figure later in our lives as Normal students and as citizens in this community.

We regret that we were unable to obtain sufficient data on the life of our English teacher, ~~the~~ late Mrs. Mabel Wheeler Evans, to include in this collection.

Out of reverence to God, undying gratitude to our parents, and deep appreciation for our teachers, we present these facts which are a part of SUMNER'S rich heritage.

May the lives of our modest but noble teachers together with the lives of all who serve this great school keep alive the true spirit of SUMNER...dedicated to the cause of freedom and human rights.

God grant that 1975 will find the students and graduates of SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL.....ALIVE.....ALERT.....and ACHIEVING.

MACTE VIRTUTE.....PROCEED WITH VALOR

Julia Davis

The first of the three is the one which is most often met with in the literature. It is the one which is most often met with in the literature.

The second of the three is the one which is most often met with in the literature. It is the one which is most often met with in the literature.

The third of the three is the one which is most often met with in the literature. It is the one which is most often met with in the literature.

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REMINISCENCES

"Once more with joy, oh our classmates we meet thee!
Once more with joy, our teachers we greet thee!
Our Pilgrim's staff may rest us now,
Since we to heaven have fulfilled our vow."

The first Tuesday in September 1905 found happy, new faces, fluttering hearts and ambitious looking youths entering the portals of knowledge at 15th and Walnut Streets. Schools throughout the city had sent elected armor bearers to seek new laurels for themselves and their schools. What would any of these hopeful ones exchange for their first year in high school? We had heard all sorts of reports, yet, we couldn't believe any because we were to make a history all our own.

Miss Childs and Miss Hubbard had so kindly prepared our programs before we arrived - and to the great dismay of many - had broken up the many school clans into four classes, one of which was assigned to the new teacher's room as a home-room. One of the little darlings asked the teacher his name, and he - as any intellectual person would have done - wrote his name, its derivation and meaning upon the board. It read, GEORGE C. POAGE, a word of the Irish brogue meaning kiss.... whereupon all the little dears wished to be "poaged." However, Mr. Poage soon was down to business and we didn't care if we were ever "poaged" - because even in our first year's work under him, we made constant pilgrimages to the library trying to out-general the greatest English general of our time.

Some were grumbling because Miss Hubbard gave all the Algebra problems in the book.

Some were calling on the spirits of Romulus and Remus to show Miss Childs how to give a reasonable assignment in Latin.

All were greatly pleased to go to dear Mr. Clark's room for Botany and Physiology to mimic him clearing his throat and stroking his face downward - little dreaming that the instructions and admonitions of one of the strongest abolitionists would guide us ever onward to higher ideals and achievements in the name of humanity. For, in the Kaleidoscope of history, one of the most interesting, if not most potent chapters is that of American Slavery and its faithful warriors... among whose number was our own dear Mr. Clark. In those ancient days, we didn't have electric lights for dark days, and lessons were usually suspended to protect our eyes. During such periods, Mr. Clark would tell us many interesting episodes of the greatest work of his career and plead with us to finish our education because we owed it to those so unfortunately denied the chance.

Mr. Roberson repeatedly told us that he didn't have but one pair of hands, and couldn't correct everybody's drawing at once. However, he made an attempt to criticize everybody's at once..causing much comment on the way home.

After having sewing in the 7th grade, it seemed ridiculous that Miss Vanderburg would start our high school work with cloth weaving. Yet, she admitted it was hard to pick one for the exhibit...each one was very good...in spite of all the talking we did.

REMINISCENCES

The boys were wondering just what did Mr. Phillips expect. Their drawings were plu-perfect, yet with his "spect's he couldn't see it.

Regardless of his experience, Mr. Thornton didn't know nearly as much about tools and materials as the new recruits filing into the carpenter shop. Thus, the first year for this notable host closed with many pleasant memories...but, some were missing at roll call.

CHAPTER II

Contrary to traditional facts, our sophomore year, at that time called second year, found us not nearly so wise, but better acquainted with our mates, teachers and the school. We were very happy to find our programs awaiting us, and that the new subjects were alluring. Some of us went to Mr. Langston for Latin, some with Mr. Poage to help Caesar conquer Gaul and found that it was divided into more than three parts...the fourth part being at Sumner.

We worked untiringly to help Mr. Gossin find out how much Mr. B owed Mr. A. in the Daybook, Journal, and Ledger. Very often we were sure the book was wrong, and Mr. Gossin had to be the mediator between the book and the pupils. Several of the experts agreed among themselves that they were better penmen than Mr. Gossin, but didn't want to embarrass him.

Why do we have to take English under Mr. Poage again? Surely, he gave us all he knew last year..at least he tried...but did he? When he unlocked English closet No. 2, we sympathized with ourselves.

"WHAT IS PHYSICS?" was the greeting Mr. Huffman gave us. How did we know? And, herewith is a confession. We thought he didn't know himself and was trying to learn from us. Before long, he proved to the nth degree that he was second to none in the field. Although a master in his profession, he was a novice in knowledge of this sainted group....because each time his back was turned we performed experiments no ~~bkkk~~ could print.

The boys were more elated over our new Domestic Science assignment ..they thought we needed cooking more than sewing. But they lost much interest in Miss Burrell because she took too much time teaching food values and didn't furnish enough food. We can hear her now..."How much butter did you use? Answer: "A spoonful,"...But, oh, what kind of a spoon? How well do we recall the day we prepared steamed pudding with strawberry sauce. We thought Miss Burrell made a mistake in the amount of sugar. We proceeded to take the amount we thought was needed - and, in haste, got salt instead of sugar. You know the result.

Just why did Miss Hubbard think Geometry so simple? Perhaps, if she had shared some of her gray matter with us, we would have thought so too.

It was really marvelous how Mr. Phillips and Mr. Thornton improv-

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REMINISCENCES

IN THEIR knowledge... for they actually taught the boys some things they never knew before.

A few more had dropped out during the year. Our third year found us smaller in number, but larger in vision.

CHAPTER III

We started out to gain the friendship of mates, teachers and everyone in the school. With great difficulty Mr. Gossin started us off in Civil Government. We were so positive that we had had it in the 8th grade history class. Soon, we were convinced that there was a lot we didn't know.

"Oh tempora, Oh mores," Mr. Langston knew this and so did we. Cicero may have been great in his day, but not in ours....even our beloved Latin teacher Mr. Langston could not change our idea.

No one but Miss Hubbard could arouse any interest in Ancient History, and she made an excellent referee for the bout caused by the Protestant Reformation....you see, we had different denominations represented in our class.

Another bright spot in our school life was added when we studied Chemistry. It was then we came to know one who proved a real champion of our weak cause. His patience was perfect. Who but he would not have expelled our classmate for opening the door to the secret chamber where the obnoxious sulphur dioxide was kept? The awful fumes reached the topmost part of the building before we could realize what happened. Mr. Campbell actually forgave him only to have the offender make an extra strong explosive and endanger all of our lives. When Mr. Campbell gently reprimanded him, the chap grinningly replied that there would have been a band of little angels invading the kingdom come, together.

Miss Hubbard gave a sigh of relief when informed that Mr. Campbell would finish us in Geometry.

We were inflicted upon Miss Vanderburg again and made of ourselves quite a variety of good and bad dressmakers. Mr. Thornton and Mr. Phillips were endowed with more tolerance for their trials with our boys. Miss Fitch and Miss Lodwick attempted, in vain, to produce a class of artists.

A few more deserted the ranks, but not nearly as many as in previous years.

CHAPTER IV

We answered roll call for our last glorious year at Sumner as brothers under and over the skin. A great change had taken place, and we did not find the little round Mr. Waring looking over his spect's at us. We found a more rotund person, Mr. F.L. Williams, instead.

REMINISCENCES

The great and dear Mr. Clark had been supplanted by an equally great and dear man, whose achievements may well be measured with his, Dr. C.H. Turner. We remembered how Miss Childs had taught us to translate a charming little story about the one bad apple that could spoil a barrel full. In our second year English, Mr. Poage had given the entire class zero because we did not know that gregarious meant "moving in flocks." And so, one bad apple in the class suggested that in order to get a good look at the new teacher, we should study in his room... the entire class gregariated to his room. Another bad apple made it his duty to find out the teacher's name. At first, no one paid any attention to him. Finally, Dr. Turner asked him what was the trouble, and erased a small space on the board and wrote his name. We proceeded to read aloud "Dr. C.H. Turner inorganic not living matter." The last phrase was a portion of the subject matter Dr. Turner had failed to erase. Fortune smiled on Dr. Turner in that he didn't have the privilege to have us.

Just why did they give us Miss Wheeler in English Literature? There 's not a speck of sense in having both written and oral recitations in one day..even Mr. Poage didn't do that. Instead of working hard, we began to grumble and the first thing we knew, the Gods had frowned on us and we were right back under Mr. Poage.

Did he make us work? We ask you to note the everyday English of any of our classmates. "Arma virumque cano", yes, another year of Latin with dear Mr. Langston -but different. By the end of the term, we had actually learned to scan. Aeneas made several romantic blunders, according to our Romeos...his wife and Queen Dido were disgusting to us Juliets.

We had developed from plain cooks to cateresses..we could tell sugar from salt without having to taste it ...we even prepared the menu and table for a banquet, served the same, then dressed for the occasion.

How our hearts swelled when Mr. Campbell told us that we were the only Trigonometry class that he had that would always answer any question, and that we were the first class that attempted to make the class 100 per cent in success or failure. Our greatest comfort in days of tears and sadness was to have him for a home-room teacher. When teachers and even the principal misunderstood us, our champion came to our rescue. When we were downhearted, thinking all the world was against us...he taught us how to smile away the clouds. He shared our many petty sorrows. That is why he became our idol. As the term drew to a close, lessons became secondary, and preparations for graduation primary. After many a fiery siege, our boys thought it fitting to choose, "We came, We saw, We conquered" as a class motto. But, our beloved Mr. Campbell thought that since we had acquitted ourselves so valiantly, he would suggest "MACTE VIRTUTE", Proceed with Valor. It was unanimously adopted and has motivated our lives these twenty years. (1929)

We now bequeath it as a precious heritage to our posterity.
Compiled by the late Birdie L. Price

OSCAR MINOR WARING

About the year 1837, Mr. Waring was born of lowly parents into a large family in Virginia. Until 1873, his chances for advanced education were slim. After his family moved to Ohio, he completed his basic courses and prepared for college at the academy at Beaver, Pennsylvania and also at Oberlin College in Ohio.

When a young man, Mr. Waring wanted to be a lawyer and studied law. He married young, and two children were born to the union. After the death of his young wife, he moved to Washington, D.C. to practice law. He also did other forms of literary and journalistic work.

He continued to practice law in Washington, D.C. until called to teach Mathematics at Alcorn College,, Alcorn, Mississippi. After a short while he accepted a position as principal of a public high school in Louisville, Kentucky. I

In 1877, he was called to teach in Saint Louis. He became the first Negro principal of the Charles Sumner High School. Year (1879)

His colleagues spoke of him as a strong principal, especially in administration. He was positive and kind. He was very positive in controlling his students. He was scholarly and very active in his work. He was considered, by some, a person who was not sociable. Often he went off with his lunch, a line, a hook, and his pipe...alone to fish. When questioned why, he said, "A man's books are sufficient unto him."

He was a most charitable man, and always helped needy students. Yet, he wanted no praise for any act of charity. He asked his teachers not to use his name as a threat to the students..."I want my pupils to love me."

Mr. Waring was noted for his great respect for womanhood which was shown in his dealings with the female members of his faculty.

He was fond of Greek and Latin, and was considered one of the best Latin scholars connected with the schools of his day. When necessary, he could speak Latin fluently. He also spoke German fluently. French, Spanish and some Italian were languages he could speak.

During his administration: Manual Training classes were started; Sumner Teachers' Training Class was organized in 1890 to train colored teachers to teach in the public schools of St. Louis; Auto mechanics were taught between the years of 1905 and 1906. This was, perhaps, the first class of its kind in a Negro high school in this country.

From the year 1892 on, one can find in Mr. Waring's reports to the Board of Education, expressions of his philosophy of education as well as his ideas and ideals about the future of Sumner..... e.g.

"A child should primarily be educated because it will make him a better man or woman."

"An educated man may possibly be a bad man, while an ignorant man is almost certain not to be a good man."

It is said that Mr. Waring was a very good teacher and a very good principal. The child is the future of the nation.

OSCAR MINOR WARING

It is said that Mr. Waring advocated that the alphabet should be taught while the child is learning to read and to write.

A fellow educator remarked that Mr. Waring was not an ordinary principal of his era....."He was twenty years ahead of his times."

On his 1892 report, he said..."The future of Sumner High School never seemed so promising as now. With the better accommodations and more extended facilities which the Board promises to provide for us at an early date, the school may reasonably be expected to meet the wishes of its friends and to accomplish the object for which it is maintained".

The next year Mr. Waring reported that the patrons and community in general have increasing confidence in Sumner, but the present location has long been a subject of just complaint. He stated that he had apologized to citizens and strangers for the utterly unsuitableness of the building and surroundings (at Eleventh and Spruce) to the extent that he had, "RUN OUT OF REASONS WHY". Sumnerites who attended then testify that you could see the morgue on one side and the city jail on another side.

In 1895 Sumner High School and Sumner Training School moved to Fifteenth and Walnut Streets. Kiel Auditorium now covers the spot.

In 1901 Superintendent F. Louis Soldan made the following comment, "Sumner High has sent pupils to almost every college which admits colored students". In 1904, Mr. Calvin Woodward, President of the Board said, "We point with pride to the fact that Sumner is probably the best housed, the best equipped and best administered colored high school in the land". But, following the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (World's Fair) held in St. Louis in 1904 this building no longer adequately housed the students. It was becoming outmoded, too.

Because of failing health, Mr. Waring resigned in June 1908 and died in March 1911 at the age of 74. His dream of a better Sumner was beginning to come true.

Three years of our high school career had been spent under the influence of this scholar, educator and humanitarian. We beamed whenever he came into our classroom and asked a question as he did one day... "Who can give me a pun?" The answer came quickly from a smart little '09er "Grub Makes Butterfly". He smiled and left. This was a rare visit that we will never forget.

We agree with his philosophy, "None can do his best work in all its richness without a sound fundamental education and greatest of all a sterling character".

In honor of his memory the new Waring School was dedicated in 1940. Mr. Marcus J. Gilliam, then Principal, was a former teacher at Sumner High School.

FRANK LUNSFORD WILLIAMS

The following account appears in the report of the Superintendent of the Saint Louis Public Schools for the year 1908:

"At the beginning of the term in September, Mr. Frank L. Williams was assigned to the principalship of this school. Mr. Williams brought to his new work the training of extended and intense study, and of many years of varied practical experience in all grades of the elementary and secondary work. After graduation from the elementary and high school in Louisville, Kentucky, he taught a year in Indiana. He resigned this position and spent the next five years as a student at Berea College, where he graduated with a degree of A.B. in 1889. For the next year he taught in the Louisville schools and became principal of the High and Normal School there.

When thirty-six years old, he moved to Covington, Kentucky, becoming principal of the William Grant High School. His motive in moving was that he might have the advantage of advanced courses in the University of Cincinnati. While principal of the Grant High School, he carried on his studies at the University for a period of seven years. In 1908, he received the degree of A.M. from Cincinnati and at that time had completed most of the work required for the Ph.D. degree.

He was for eight years the president of the State Association of Kentucky colored teachers, and was a recognized leader of thought and action in social and civic organizations. The testimonials from citizens and school authorities of Louisville and Covington, and from the Deans and President of the University of Cincinnati alike speak of Mr. Williams as a man of exceptional intellect and character. The Board was fortunate in securing the services of a man so fitted to carry forward the great work planned and inaugurated for the rational education of the young people of his race in this community."

From September 1908 - June 1909, we came to know this dynamic person as one who meant business from the start; as one who came to carry forward the program of our historic school; and as one who endeared himself to the students because of his firm stand for Excellence in Citizenship as well as excellence in Scholarship.

HE CHALLENGED THE '09ers TO DO THEIR BEST AND TO BE THEIR BEST.

Although born in Louisville, Kentucky, forty-five of the eighty-eight years he lived were spent in St. Louis. On February 13, 1953, Mr. Williams died at St. Mary's Infirmary. According to the daily press, he had been associated with the St. Louis Public School System for 32 years before his retirement in 1940. He was principal of Sumner from 1908 to 1928. He served as principal of Washington Technical School from 1928 to 1932, when he was transferred to Vashon High School.

Mr. Williams was chairman of the Board at the Pine Street Branch Y.M.C.A. for about 30 years. He served on the national Y.M.C.A. Council during the middle 1930s.

In July 1935 he was appointed to the St. Louis Housing Author-

FRANK LUNSFORD WILLIAMS

ity by former Mayor Bernard F. Dickman for a four-year term. He was nominated for the St. Louis Award for 1936-37 for "his educational accomplishments and his communal services." Mr. Williams was also a curator at Lincoln University in Jefferson City and aided in securing a bond issue for construction of Homer G. Phillips Hospital

Mr. Williams founded in 1914 and was president of the New Age Building and Loan Association now located at 1401 N. Kingshighway.... (New Age Federal Savings and Loan Association)

At the time of his death, Mr. Williams was survived by his widow Mrs. Fannie Williams and their three daughters...Mrs. David Jones of Greensboro, N.C., Mrs. James E. Stamps of Chicago, and Miss Frances H. Williams of Washington, D.C. Since then, Mrs. Williams who was also very active in our community..and much loved by the citizens, passed. St. Louisans were happy to learn that Frances now lives at the home place so dear to the Williams family and their many friends.

ELMER CARY CAMPBELL

Mr. Campbell was a striking example of the type of modest, unassuming yet forceful personalities on the faculty of Sumner when we were students. He was a young, handsome man fresh from college with some teaching experience when he came to us at 15th and Walnut Streets.

Because of his reticence to boast or even to talk about himself we have had to rely upon his illustrious son E. SIMMS CAMPBELL, noted cartoonist of New York City (now of Paris, France) to get some facts about his early life.

According to his son, Elmer Cary Campbell was born in Staunton, Virginia in 1875. His mother was Charlotte Campbell and his father was Thomas Cary Campbell. His father was a harness maker and made all types of leather equipment for gentlemen riders.....saddles and bits...special stirrups...reins....and various leather gear that sportsman...riders used.

All of his early education was received in the elementary schools of Staunton, Virginia. He entered Howard University in Washington, D.C. at the age of eighteen, and was the captain of the football team while there. In fact, he captained most of the athletic teams at Howard.

At Howard, he was a member of the Debating Society and also a member of the College Glee Club. He was especially fond of singing... had a tenor voice. His favorite hymn was "JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL" which was sung at his funeral by J. Arthur Freeman.

He was the first man to take Negro high school students on train trips to play other schools in football. And I'm sure he was the first Negro coach in St. Louis to play white high schools in other cities.

ELMER CARY CAMPBELL

His hobby was photography....a hobby that I have until this day possibly getting the love for it from my father.

I can only say that I have tried to live up to the many fine things that he did....I do know that I am a much better man for having had so fine a father.

I feel that his students are the best gauge of what a man tried to do.....

He died when I was four years of age, and of course I have only faint memories of him...but one thought stands out in my memory very much.

I suppose I must have been about three years of age. He took me to Tower Grove Park which was in South St. Louis, about six blocks from our home, and he spent the entire day with me explaining shells, slugs and snails. We sat down near a little brook. My most vivid recollection of my father was his explaining how these little animals lived...what they ate...and of what use they were in the world. Today, at the age of 44 (1950) he was right in everything he told me. He never lied to me about them....and I was only three at the time.

Another interesting thing about my father...particularly interesting to me because I never made such grades... His grades averaged 97 - for the full four years. Later, he attended the University of Wisconsin for post-graduate work. His field of endeavor, of course, was chemistry."

To this touching testimonial from a devoted son, we could add one more from every '09er and others from the student body....and faculty associates as well.

Unless you have spent the full four years in high school, you can neither know nor fully appreciate the feel of the growing attachment to your senior adviser and home-room teacher.

Although Mr. Campbell assisted the principal in the office before Mr. Waring retired, he never neglected his regular or his study classes. To us he meant far more than a teacher of Geometry, Trigonometry, and Chemistry. He became our "IDOL". And so, in our senior year, when he returned with the FOOT-BALL TEAM from Louisville, we surprised him with a beautiful, black silk umbrella.

We mourned the passing of this man who loved young people.

WILLIAM HENRY HUFFMAN

Mr. Huffman was born in Harveysburg, Ohio in 1874 and educated in the public schools there. He graduated from the Grandville Academy and was the first ranking student in Latin and Greek.

In 1895, he received his A.B. Degree from Dennison University of Grandville, Ohio, and was class orator. He continued his studies at Cornell, University of Wisconsin and Harvard.

WILLIAM HENRY HUFFMAN

His teaching experience before coming to Sumner, included his services at Simmons College Louisville, Kentucky, and at Central High School there. As an administrator, he served as teacher and principal in the public schools of Indianapolis, Indiana.

In 1902 he was appointed to the Science Department of Sumner as a teacher of Physics. Immediately, he became active in the life of the school. Together, with his newly found associate, Mr. Elmer C. Campbell...teacher of Chemistry across the hall....sports at Sumner took on new life. Through their efforts football playing out-of-town began.

Mr. Huffman and a friend, a teacher in Central High School, founded the TRIANGULAR LEAGUE....composed of Central High School, Pearl High School, Nashville, Tennessee and Sumner. However, in 1910 the Board passed a law which forbade out-of-town trips in baseball, track, basketball and tennis.

Not only did Mr. Huffman contribute much to the success and development of an enriched athletic program at Sumner, but also he helped initiate the extra curricular program in Music, Literature and dramatics at Sumner. An orator himself, he helped interest the students in the old FORUM LITERARY SOCIETY which offered opportunities in public speaking, debates and the like. This club began at the Old building at 15th and Walnut Streets.

At new Sumner (the present location) he was active in organizing the Dramatic Club. He was associated with Mr. Langston and Mr. Poage in bringing to the school the best in operatic performances. During the early days at the new building, he and Mr. Langston played the leading male roles in the great performance of HIAWATHA given at night. This and other plays given by the student body with and without teacher participation made Sumner outstanding as a center of culture in this community.

Although quite versatile, Mr. Huffman's greatest contribution was made in the field of Science. He organized the first class in wireless telegraphy at Sumner. He knew his work and how to put it over to the students. He had a keen sense of humor that the students liked. Although master of his subject, he was a student of trends.

After leaving Sumner, he served as principal of West Belle School (1927-1931); Principal of Stowe Teachers College (1931-1932)... Acting Professor (1932-1934); Principal of Washington Technical High School (1934-1942) and on limited service until 1943. He retired from teaching in the St. Louis public schools in 1944.

Until he left St. Louis to live in sunny California, following the death of his devoted wife, he was an active member of the All Saints Episcopal Church....the Pine Street Branch YMCA, the NAACP and other civic organizations. He returned occasionally for a visit, and received a warm welcome by his many friends. He died in 1954.

Mr. Huffman was a man who could inspire his students.

GEORGE COLEMAN POAGE

CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY LIFE

In 1884 when but an infant, George, his father, James Poage, his mother Anna, and his three year old sister Nell left Hannibal, Missouri to settle in LaCrosse, Wisconsin....then a growing river town where people of many nationalities lived, worked and played together.

His father obtained work as a coachman for a Mr. Pettibone, a wealthy lumberman who later gave Pettibone Park to the city of LaCrosse. Due to the rugged Wisconsin weather, James Poage died a few years later, of tuberculosis.

Although left a young widow in a new environment, Anna Poage was determined to make the best of it for the sake of her two children. She found employment as a housekeeper in the home of Mr. Jason C. Easton. According to the LaCrosse Tribune of May 7, 1949, Mr. Easton was one of the Railroad Magnets of the northwest who came to LaCrosse in 1883. He was President and Director of a number of railroads; active in bank and farm produce dealings. He was also a lover and owner of fine horses at Hillview, a stock farm just outside the city. His property on Cass Street at one time included the most extensive private conservatory within the state's limits. This home built by Mr. Easton is now the Bethany Lutheran Home for the aged.

At the Eastons Anna worked faithfully. She saved and sacrificed that her children might get the best education possible. The Eastons provided the Porges with a cottage on their estate. The children were encouraged to use the fine library; to enjoy the art treasures that filled the mansion, and to share the benefits of travel when the Eastons returned from trips in America or abroad. George had the opportunity to learn about life on a stock farm and was taught by Mr. Easton, an excellent horseman, how to ride horses.

George grew up like a weed and his mother lived in constant fear of his health because of his father's illness and death. Nell and he loved books. Often George had to be told to put up his books and go outside. Although he loves the open today, he still enjoys reading good books.

HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

At the age of eleven, George was the first colored boy to enter high school in LaCrosse. On Friday evening June 23, 1899 at the LaCrosse Theater, George, then a lad of fifteen, was the first colored boy to graduate from the LaCrosse High School....now the Central High School. The program shows that there were twenty-five graduates. William Kunerth graduated with first honors and George Coleman Poage with second honors.

Had he not spent so much time in sports and music, George believes he might have caught up with his sister Nell who was two years ahead of him in school and an excellent student, too. From his fa-

GEORGE COLEMAN POAGE

There, George inherited a fine tenor voice. While in high school he joined the Glee Club and did commendable solo work on the musical programs given by the school. He also participated in almost all of the school activities, but excelled in running and jumping. He was considered the best runner in the school, and in his senior year was chosen to represent LaCrosse High School against Winona Minnesota High School.

By winning the 50; the 100 and the 220 yard races and finishing second in the broad jump, George helped LaCrosse win this track meet from Winona High. A LaCrosse newspaper account of this meet also says, "the fifty yard dash state record was broken by Poage, who ran it in 5 2/5 seconds".

COLLEGE DAYS

Although Nell had now finished school and had accepted a position to teach in Lincoln High School East Saint Louis, Illinois and was urging her widowed mother to join her there, Anna Poage, however, preferred to remain in Wisconsin and help George get started in college. The summer following graduation from high school, George worked on a farm near Canby, Minnesota. That fall, by putting together his earnings, what mother gave him and a gift from Mr. Easton he entered the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wisconsin. That same year Mrs. Easton died and Mr. Easton's health began to fail. The following spring, Mr. Easton died. George returned home, packed and left LaCrosse for good, but never to forget where he grew up.

By means of working at odd jobs after school and on a farm during the summer he earned enough money to go back to college in the fall.

His high school record in athletics, no doubt, had preceded him because in his sophomore year he was made a member of the track team. From then on, POAGE, as he was known was able to make it on his own. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin....CLASS 1903, and also completed one year of post graduate work.

While a senior in college, he was invited to become a member of the the Milwaukee Athletic Club, the first colored man, according to their records, to be so honored. Because of his successful record in athletics in college, the invitation was extended. In this sketch we include a bit of his history making record as an athlete.

POAGE AS A BADGER

The following facts have been compiled from newspaper accounts of some athletic meets in which POAGE participated while a student at the University of Wisconsin.....during the years 1902 - 1904.

DUAL MEET at Camp Randall, Wisconsin. CHICAGO, 72 1/2; WISCONSIN, 53 1/2.

POAGE: won 220 hurdle from Catlin in 26 1-5; won 440 yards from Taylor in: 52 3-5. (year 1902)

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DUAL MEET at University of Chicago Gym. WISCONSIN, 47; CHICAGO, 32.
POAGE: won quarter mile from Moloney in :54 3-5. (year 1902)

DUAL MEET at Wisconsin Gym. WISCONSIN, 42 1/2; CHICAGO, 34 1/2.
POAGE: won 35 yard dash from Blair in :04 2-5; won 40 yard high hurdle from Catlin in :05 2-5 and came in second in the 440 yard dash. Won in all 13 points. (winter 1903 - 1904)

DUAL MEET at Camp Randall, Wisconsin. WISCONSIN, 76 1/2; ILLINOIS, 35 1/2.
POAGE: won 440 yards run in :50 2-5. Broke Camp Randall record held by Fox of the University of Wisconsin :52. (year 1903)

A A U INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP MEET at Exposition Hall Milwaukee. WISCONSIN, 54; CENTRAL YMCA of CHICAGO, 26, MILWAUKEE ATHLETIC CLUB, 16.
POAGE: won 440 yards run from his team-mate Waller in :55. (winter 1903)

DUAL MEET at Notre Dame. NOTRE DAME, 47; WISCONSIN, 41.
POAGE: won 220 yard dash from Herbert in the first heat but lost to Staples :23 2-5 in the finals. Lost 440 in the finals to Gearin :53 2-5. (spring 1903)

DUAL MEET at the University of Chicago. WISCONSIN, 59; CHICAGO, 53.
POAGE: won 440 yards run from Lord in :53 2-5. (winter 1903)

WESTERN INTER-COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE MEET at Marshall Field, Chicago. MICHIGAN - 32; CHICAGO - 29; WISCONSIN - 25; PURDUE - 12; STANFORD - 9; ILLINOIS - 8; INDIANA - 6; DRAKE - 3; OBERLIN - 1; IOWA - 1.
POAGE: won 220 low hurdle from Catlin, Captain of Chicago U team in :25 and won the 440 yards run from Blair of Chicago in 0:50 4-5. (1904)

INTER COLLEGIATE MEET at Northrup Field Minneapolis, Minnesota. WISCONSIN, 65; MINNESOTA, 37.
POAGE: won the quarter mile in :52; and won 220 yard dash from Brockman in :22 4-5. (year 1904)

DUAL MEET at Beloit Wisconsin. WISCONSIN, 58 1/2; BELOIT, 53 1/2.
POAGE: lost 100 yard dash to Knox in :10; won 220 from Hayden in :22 3-5; won 440 from Merrill in :52 and won low hurdle from Campbell in :27. (spring 1904)

DUAL MEET at Champaign, Illinois. WISCONSIN, 58; ILLINOIS, 54.
POAGE: won 100 yard dash from Miller in :10; 220 from English in 21 4-5; 440 from Cayou in 49 3-5. (year 1904)

PRESS COMMENTS ON POAGE'S PERFORMANCES

WISCONSIN vs CHICAGO at Camp Randall: "The quarter up to the last 100 yards was an exciting event. Poage had the pole at the start, but Taylor jumped to the lead in the first eighth. At the third turn Poage tried to pass the Chicago man, but was unable to do so within 150 yards of the finish. Once by Taylor, he drew away quickly and finished ten yards to the good. In the 220 yard dash Poage...in the 220 hur-

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dle sprung a surprise by taking first place from Catlin by a margin of four yards." (Record-Herald...Chicago)

WISCONSIN vs CHICAGO at CHICAGO: "The quarter mile relay brought together two fast men in Moloney and Poage. The Badger....kept in the lead till the last half lap. Moloney.....finished a fraction of a second behind the Wisconsin man." "Poage turned another clever trick for Wisconsin in the quarter, winning from Captain Fred Moloney by the narrowest of margins in 54 3-5 seconds." (Chicago Tribune)

WISCONSIN vs CHICAGO at WISCONSIN: "The best work for Wisconsin was done by Poage, who won both the dash and the hurdle races from Chicago men who had been considered sure winners." "Wisconsin opened the meet by winning an unexpected event. Blair, the Chicago crack sprinter, being defeated by Poage by a hair's breadth at the tape after an even sprint across the gym floor." "Poage was the only man who qualified for the finals...." "Poage did the star work in the short dashes..." "Poage won in all 13 points." (Chicago Tribune)

WISCONSIN vs ILLINOIS at CAMP RANDALL: "Poage made the quarter in 50 2-5, the fastest time ever made here." "Three records were broken, the quarter-mile record of 52 seconds held by "Jack" Fox of Milwaukee, going to Poage in 50 2-5 seconds...." "Without doubt the fastest starter at the University is Poage, the quarter miler....." (University paper..The Cardinal)

AAU CHAMPIONSHIP MEET at MILWAUKEE: "Colored Athlete cheered..... Poage of the Badgers was the most popular athlete in the meet and when he ran away with the 440 yard run, closely followed by his team-mate, Waller his victory was greeted with the most rousing reception of the evening." (Milwaukee Sentinel)

WISCONSIN vs NOTRE DAME at NOTRE DAME: "Poage of Wisconsin ran two magnificent races against Staples in the 220 and Gearin in the quarter, finishing only a few yards behind the leaders in both events." "Wisconsin sprung a surprise in the 220 yard dash, Poage beating out Herbert, Notre Dame's star, in the first trial heat. But when Poage lined up against Staples in the finals he could not keep the lead, Staples winning by three yards. (Chicago Record Herald)

WISCONSIN vs CHICAGO at CHICAGO: "Poage of Wisconsin justified expectations by taking the quarter mile run handily, his chief opponent being Lord, who ran the fastest relay of his team in the Philadelphia races. Poage was in fine form and made a great sprint on the finish which landed him a good three yards ahead of his maroon rival." (University paper...The Cardinal)

WESTERN INTER COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE MEET at CHICAGO: (Headline)..... "POAGE OF WISCONSIN TAKES LOW HURDLES FROM CATLIN:" "Poage, the colored quarter miler, was the hero of the Wisconsin team. He won the quarter in the remarkably fast time of :50 4-5, and then beat Catlin of Chicago in the hurdles in :25, which equals the conference record." "Poage of Wisconsin won the meet for Michigan," was the remark on every

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one's lips." "Poage defeated Catlin in the event that clinched the meet for the Wolverines." (Chicago Tribune)

INTER COLLEGIATE MEET at MINNESOTA: "Poage the star of the day." "The Badgers put up a strong fight in every event." "Poage, the Negro winning honors in the running events." (Minneapolis paper)

WISCONSIN vs ILLINOIS at CHAMPAIGN: "Poage had the highest individual score

WISCONSIN vs BELOIT at BELOIT: "Poage had the highest individual score, 18 and Knox 16." Note: Knox beat Poage in 100 yard Dash." (Cardinal)

WISCONSIN vs ILLINOIS at CHAMPAIGN: "Poage was the especial star for Wisconsin, and carried off three firsts with a total of fifteen points. In the 100 yards dash he went two heats in 10 seconds flat, tying the track record of 21 4-5 in the 220." Note: The other first was the 440 yard dash in 49 3-5. (Chicago Tribune 1904)

In a published record of the WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS, ALL MEETS...the 440 yards run in 0:49 3-5 was won by Poage of Wisconsin.

ENTERS THE OLYMPICS

The original Olympic games began in 776 B.C. in Greece. In 1896 at Athens, Greece they were revived. No colored Athletes appeared in these games. But, in the second set of the modern Olympics the first Negro track and field entrant was George Poage the hurdler and quarter miler of Wisconsin University. Poage, Breikrentz, and Fuhrer were the star athletes who competed at the World's Fair games held in St. Louis, Missouri in 1904. These three stars entered under the colors of the Milwaukee Athletic Club.

Poage held a college record of 49 seconds for the 440, 25 seconds for the low hurdles. In the Olympics at St. Louis, according to E.B. Henderson in his book THE NEGRO IN SPORTS, Poage raced Harry Hillman to a new record in the 400 meter race, which Hillman won in the new time 49 1/5 seconds. Hillman and Poage met for another race in the 400 meter hurdles. Here again Poage was Hillman's nearest competitor at the finish. Again Hillman made a new record of 53 seconds, but it was disallowed, because he knocked over the last hurdle.

ACCEPTS TEACHING POSITION AT SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL

Immediately following the Olympics in St. Louis, Mr. Poage was offered a teaching position in the Charles Sumner High School. At first he debated whether he could stand the confinement of the classroom. After weighing the situation, he accepted the position and gave ten years of top service to the students at Sumner. In 1914 his health demanded that he give up the job. For six years he taught at the old Sumner building at Fifteenth and Walnut Streets (now the Kiel Auditorium site) and for four years (1910 - 1914) he taught at the new Sumner High located at its present site.

GEORGE COLEMAN POAGE

The regular subjects Mr. Poage taught at Sumner were English Composition, Latin and English Literature. In extra Curricular activities he helped students prepare for public speaking, for debates, for dramatic and musical productions. In 1911 he started the Red Domino Dramatic Club whose most outstanding success was the play "UNTANGLING TONY". In 1912 he instituted the first indoor CIRCUS at Sumner. It was a great success. Mr. Frank Roberson, the Art instructor, "Mr. Poage says, worked with me in putting these affairs over...scenic effects, scenery" Mr. Poage had the rare ability of discovering talented teenagers and to train them along the lines of their talent. Whenever and wherever he could he assisted in helping Sumner excell in sports. Students who were members of the FORUM LITERARY SOCIETY at old Sumner; members of the RED DOMINO DRAMATIC CLUB at new Sumner remember the fine job he did as one of the trainers.

LATER LIFE

He left Sumner and went back to the soil. After purchasing a quarter section in Minnesota, he remained there for five years raising wheat until the end of the war. In 1920 he sold his farm and moved to Chicago, Illinois. His mother who had lived with him part of the time he taught in St. Louis and had been living with Nell and her family in Denver, Colorado now came to Chicago to live again with her son. For awhile he was in the restaurant business in Chicago, but for the past twenty seven years he was connected with the Post Office Department. He is now retired.

STILL REMEMBERED.....STILL IN TOUCH

To see how well he is remembered by old friends, former classmates former students and the old Varsity, one has but to visit the modest apartment in the Rosenwald Apartments on South Wabash Avenue in Chicago where George Coleman, a bachelor, lived with his 92 year old mother Anna Poage. In this sketch we mention a few testimonials.

The surprise of a life-time came in May 1942 when he was informed by Mr. A.K. Vantine, Personnel Manager of the Dravo Corporation of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania with shipyards at Wilmington, Delaware...that the Vice President Mr. R.W. Remp who knew him in Wisconsin during his high school and college days had recommended him as the man for the position as Assistant Personnel Manager in charge of Negro workers. His job would consist of helping to recruit and train men for the various phases of ship building activities; employment, training and supervision of a shipway to be manned by Negroes. Mr. Poage was invited to visit the plant at the Wilmington Yard, at the expense of the company. This he did. The salary offered was three hundred dollars per month to start. Because of government directives, he was unable to get a release from government service to private industry. Rather than lose his service rating and his eligibility for reinstatement, Mr. Poage had to decline the offer.

GEORGE COLEMAN POAGE

In 1947 Dawn Vaughn of LaCrosse, Wisconsin a Central High School pupil informed him that the History classes were writing up, for the school files, a short biographical sketch of former students who had done outstanding work in the field they pursued after graduation. She had chosen to write about him. Mr. Poage states, "This she did in a most thorough and interesting manner."

In 1948 came three interesting communications. First, along with a class letter inviting him to the 45th Annual Class reunion came a personal note from George R. Keachie, Captain of the track team of 1903. Then, in a "thank you" letter for Mr. Poage's contribution to the Testimonial for Coach Jones, coach of the 1948 Olympic track team who was retiring....came this personal note: "I used to watch you run the sprints when I was a kid in Madison"..... Al Tormey." Incidentally, Al Tormey, M.D. Class 1914 was the chairman of the T.E. Jones Foundation. Finally, at Christmas season came a card from retiring Coach Jones...."I have heard a great deal about you. I would like to meet you."

May 19, 1950 came a letter from the University of Wisconsin... office of President Fred requesting Mr. Poage to represent the University at the Silver Anniversary of the Elks Department of Education to be held in Chicago August 19. Because of a pre-planned vacation trip with his niece in California, he was unable to attend.

These are but a few evidences that prove the value of the sacrifices of a devoted mother. Were it not for Anna Poage, many of the facts presented here would not be available. It is she who kept and treasured the pictures and clippings about the record her son has made. It is her delight to tell visitors, "George has never given me a cross word in his life."

HARRIET A. HUBBARD CLEM

January 26, 1951 we received this autobiographical sketch from Mrs. Clem who lives in Springfield, Illinois.

I was christened Harriet A., one of the eleven (11) children born to J.P. and Maggie Turner Hubbard, and am the last surviving member of the group. I detested the name "Harriet," was nicknamed "Hattie" by my family and friends, and bore the name religiously until I began my teaching career at Sumner High, in St. Louis. I was quite young at that time, and, because of conditions then existing at Sumner, and the fact that I was working on a plane with all my former teachers, I thought, to use my own given name would make me seem older, more dignified; more respect-demanding from my pupils particularly, and I began to use my name "Harriet" especially on papers requiring my signature.

I am a native St. Louisan and was reared there, receiving my grade school and high school education in the St. Louis schools.

HARRIET A. HUBBARD CLEM

I became a pupil of the first Banneker (Grade) School, situated then on Montgomery Street between Leffingwell and Baldwin Streets, if I remember correctly. The only principal whom I knew in grade school was John A. Kelly, a man whom I always loved and admired, and who was my idea (however childish) of what a leader of girls and boys and teachers too in my group should be. He truly was a Christian gentleman. Can I say more?

Graduating from Banneker, I entered Sumner High School, then located in some desolate place in the lowest of St. Louis slums. I can not recall much of the year or so I attended school in that God-forsaken hole. As I remember it, I was scared to death most of the time. Over what? I do not know save that everybody cautioned me to be careful and "look out for anything." Much to my relief we soon left that place and went to a new location, as bad in most ways as the former school premises. As I recall the streets, (and you must take into account it has been forty years since I left there) the place was 15th Street between Market and Clark Avenue. At any rate, I felt better there and enjoyed my school life and my teachers there to the fullest extent.

Graduating from there about 1900, upon the advice and persuasion of one of my loved and admired teachers at Sumner, Miss Corrine L. Gibson, I entered Howard University, College of Arts and Sciences. After four years of the most delightful associations, I was graduated with my coveted A.B. degree. Howard University is located in the National Capitol, Washington, D.C., and affords a liberal education in itself. It therefore helped round out four most profitable years for me.

There was, at that time, guiding the destinies of my group in St. Louis, one of the grandest, most far-sighted, self-retiring, and capable scholars our city and school system ever boasted, Oscar M. Waring, and I write his name reverently. He was a much maligned and misunderstood educator and benefactor to his people in St. Louis. I can never forget nor do I fail to give him grateful thanks and appreciation for the many helps he gave me in my work. He commanded the respect and admiration of the entire school system of St. Louis, and with them I rate him among our "Great." He will ever remain high in my regard. It was during the principalship of Mr. Oscar M. Waring that I, the first colored female St. Louisan to be so honored, was added to the teaching staff of Sumner High School.

I can not make you know how very pleasant it was to return and work side by side with all my old teachers, nor can I ever tell how wonderful and helpful they were to me. I recall some of them here, Peter H. Clark, A.J. Gossin, Elmer Campbell, W.H. Huffman, Mr. Roberson, Mr. A.O. Thornton, Miss Vanderburg, Miss Burrell, also Mr. Poage, Miss Wheeler, Mr. Langston, Mr. Ed. Hamilton and other valued associates. I recall each one of them with pleasure, and, as I allow my mind to "turn back," I can recall yet others whom I remember with affection, but I am not the only one whose "memoirs" are to be in this

HARRIET A. HUBBARD CLEM

book. Hence, I refrain from further comment here.

I taught, while at Sumner High, General History, Algebra, and First Year Geometry. At one time, I think, I even had some classes in Latin. My pleasure in my work was great; my pupils' lives attest my success there. Pray God in all things each one of them proves a success.

In August 1910 I did not return to St. Louis after my summer vacation, to enter the new Sumner High School and begin my teaching activities again. Instead, I entered another field - one for which I think I was intended from the beginning of things. I married Arthur L. Clem, a native of this city (Springfield) where I have lived since ...forty years ago. To this union five daughters were born, four of whom are still with us - or rather with me. My husband died about five years ago. All my girls have received college educations - two received degrees from the University of Illinois; two received degrees from Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Two of the girls are married; two are at home with me. They are:

- Margaret Ellen Clem Booth - graduate of the University of Illinois, is married to Dr. S.D. Booth, our leading dentist in this city.
- Helyn Hubbard Clem - graduate of the University of Illinois, is employed by the State of Illinois, Department of Public Welfare, and is living at home.
- Marjorie Allyn Clem - graduate of Tuskegee Institute, Registered Nurse, employed by one of our two large hospitals - Memorial Hospital, also living at home.
- Marion Porter Clem Frisby - graduate of Tuskegee Institute with a degree in Dietics, is the wife of Dr. Noble R. Frisby, a leading physician and surgeon in Greenville, Mississippi. Two promising sons, Donald Rucker, age six years, and Michael Leonard, age two years are born to this union.

Of course, we have plans for these two boys but they are not matured as yet. I do wish for them such associations as I have known with my teachers and professors. I had no idea I would write so much about myself and mine, for there is so little to be said after all. However, it will fill a page in your book, and I hope will prove what you wanted of me.

Harriet A. Clem

AUGUST OLIVER THORNTON

It is unthinkable for one as active and vivacious as Mr. August Oliver Thornton, head assistant in Practical Arts at Sumner High School, to be retired in January. Yet, his fruitful life has been filled with activity, and from an early age it has been moulded into the type of work which he has made his career.

EARLY LIFE AND SCHOOLING

Mr. Thornton takes pride in the fact that he is a native St. Louisan and that he received his basic training in the elementary and secondary schools of his home town. He grew up around Lafayette Park in south St. Louis and lived at 1539 Vail Place. He attended L'Ouverture School located at Jefferson and Chouteau Avenues, graduating in January 1887. At the age of 13 years, he entered Sumner High School of which the late Oscar Minor Waring was principal.

From the time the youth began his schooling at L'Ouverture School, the Principal, the late Prof. O.M. Woods exhibited a fatherly interest in the lad and helped him choose and prepare for his life's work. In 1889 young Thornton had completed a year and a half of academic work at Sumner and wanted to go away to college at Battle Creek, Michigan to pursue Manual Training Work. Prof. Woods recommended to the lad's father that "Gus" be sent to Washington University in St. Louis. This act marked the turning point in the youth's life and started him on a successful career.

Prof. Woods was an outstanding educational and civic race leader of that day and was personally acquainted with Mr. Calvin M. Woodward then Dean of the School of Engineering of Washington University, located between 17th and 18th on Washington Avenue.

ENTERS WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

In September 1889 Mr. Woodward permitted "Gus", as he was known, to take the competitive examination, and on the Monday following, notified him that he ranked seventh in a class of 125 boys. Immediately, "Gus" took his place in the regular and special classes along with his chums with whom he walked to school daily during his three years at the School of Manual Arts. A few of the classmates Mr. Thornton recalls were: Herman A. Steinwender, Otto J. Fruth, Al Stuffregan and Ernest A. Jaccard.

He recalls that the school day began about 8:30 A.M. and ended at 3:00 P.M. Academic work was pursued along with the work in the shop. Such subjects as Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Applied Physics, Latin, Botany, Zoology and English were included in the curriculum. Special work was given in machine shop, wood turning, bench work forging, mechanical drawing, pattern making and moulding.

In addition to this was a program for physical fitness. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the old Armory Hall on 18th and Pine Streets, Lieutenant Stafford of the 8th Infantry conducted drilling

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exercises and target practice. Every Friday, the University students turned out in a body and marched on a Five-mile hike led by the Washington University Band. Young Thornton soon rose to the rank of Sergeant and was placed in charge of a platoon.

Mr. Thornton remembers with a deep sense of appreciation his instructors, some of whom were: Mr. Wm. H. Vickroy, Mr. B.S. Newland, Mr. George W. Krall, George B. Woodward, George Arrowsmith, Charles E. Jones, Mr. Swafford and Miss M.E. Cox.

His special project for graduation was to construct a one horse power electric dynamo. This was done to the satisfaction of his instructors.

The tuition rates were then: \$¹⁰⁰ for the first year; \$ 200 for the second year and \$ 250 for the last year. Additional funds were required for books, uniforms, and some materials for shop work. During the summer months as well as during the school term this youth worked with the Alexander Cameron Architecture Company.

BEGINS CAREER

In September 1892 Thornton was a proud graduate and fortunately received employment, immediately, as an apprentice draftsman and general office worker with the Edward Flad Engineering Company in St. Louis. Mr. Flad's father was the builder of the Eads Bridge.

Through the philanthropy of Mr. N.O. Nelson, in 1894, about \$ 500 was contributed for the purchase of tools, lumber and stock in order to set up a shop at L'Ouverture School. It was here and at the request of Prof. Woods that "Gus" became the first Manual Training instructor of Negro youth in the St. Louis public schools. He volunteered his services for two hours in the afternoon two or three times per week while working at the Flad Engineering Company.

In 1895, Mr. Thornton was compelled, because of being too busy at his employment, to discontinue his instruction and the services of Mr. A.T. Bertha, an experienced carpenter and contractor were secured. The Board purchased the two residences east of the school for the purpose of housing the printing and wood-work shops.

The second proposal came to Mr. Thornton from Mr. Woods about 1898 and the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent... the late F. Louis Soldan, appointed him to a position in the Manual Training Department of the L'Ouverture School, with pay.

Both Mr. Thornton and Mr. Bertha labored zealously to get this work started. Finally, Mr. Bertha resigned to take care of his growing business and Mr. Thornton was placed in charge of both buildings.

Later, Mr. Calvin M. Woodward, as a member of the Board aided the work materially by backing the move to have all 7th and 8th Grade

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Boys, and shortly thereafter, all the boys from Sumner High School come to the L'Ouverture School center for instruction in Manual Arts.

TRANSFERRED TO SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL

About the year 1901 or 1902 when Mr. Thornton was appointed to teach at Sumner, the equipment was transferred from the L'Ouverture School.

All progress that has been made at Sumner in this department has largely been due to the efficient services of Mr. Thornton. Beginning with wood-work, the following shops were equipped at an estimated cost as follows: Wood turning - \$ 8,000; Forging, with down draft furnaces \$ 12,000; Machine Shop - \$ 18,000; Mechanical Drawing was a required subject each year. Automobile instruction was introduced about the year 1908. A 1908 Ford was used. Courses in pattern making and moulding, using cast iron, were offered in 1911 and sheet metal work was introduced in 1925.

Although Mr. Thornton has furthered his education in his field in Illinois and Michigan, his philosophy of life and his obsession for thoroughness on the part of his students was, no doubt, drilled in during the early days of his training.

Mr. Thornton is noted for his jovial nature. He is a jolly good fellow on the job and a serious worker, but shuns publicity. His greatest joy is to chat with a former student; swap jokes; give a hearty handshake or a slap on the back and wish his pupil well.

After years of service, Mr. Thornton retired September 15, 1943. Following his retirement, he accepted a position as Stock Adjuster at the Curtis-Wright Airplane Corporation. Finally, he decided to rest and relax at home. In the year 1950 he ended a life of great usefulness in St. Louis.

No student could ever think of him as having passed from this earth. His memory still lingers in the hearts of all Sumnerites and especially the boys of the Class of June 1909.

FRANK JEFFERSON ROBERSON

If one is looking for the story of the life of this teacher, it is very hard to find. For he, like almost all of our teachers, though thought it terrible to say anything about themselves. The task has been left to us as students to try and formulate an account from the way they lived among us, and were beloved as citizens.

Frank J. Roberson was born in St. Louis in 1862 the son of Lucy Jefferson and William Roberson. His mother was educated at Antioch College in Ohio under Horace Mann and later became a teacher of slaves in a basement school in St. Paul Chapel Church in St. Louis.

FRANK JEFFERSON ROBERSON

Because of the conditions under which his parents were born and the great heights to which they had climbed, Mr. Roberson always preferred to talk about them in an interview rather than about himself. His father, William Roberson, was for years an outstanding Barber in St. Louis. The press carried articles and advertisements of his ever expanding business known as THE MARBLE PALACE housed in the leading downtown Hotel. He specialized in the original Turkish Baths and the best in tonsorial artistry.

Although his father owed none of his success as a prominent business man in St. Louis to favorable circumstances, he championed the cause of the Negro in St. Louis. He was active, as Vice President along with J.H. Rector, Rev. John Turner, Rev. S.P. Anderson, A.T. Bertha, Rev. Wm. Brooks, Richard Smith, Alf White, and James Thomas of the EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL in securing the employment of colored teachers in the St. Louis public schools.

Young Frank received his basic elementary education in the St. Louis public schools. But, at an early age he was sent to do his preparatory and college work at Oberlin. From Oberlin he was sent to study Art and Architecture in Carlsruhe, Germany. It was during his stay in Germany that he was a regular contributor to the OBERLIN GAZETTE. The following is one of his articles (in part) on the German Dorf.

ACROSS THE WATER TRAVELING THROUGH GERMANY Something of the German's life

As seen by a Representative of "THE GAZETTE" - The German Dorf, etc.

Carlsruhe, March 24, 1884

EDITOR GAZETTE: - Dear Sir: A letter from the interior of Germany may be interesting to some of our readers. American and English traveling in Germany, if they do not deviate from the beaten paths and frequented places, will find a knowledge of the language while inconvenient not so all important, for English is spoken at most large hotels; but an entire ignorance of the language will compel them often to submit to the detestable extortions practiced by hotel keepers, servants, etc. a practice which is a universal imposition upon Americans; but, deviating from the beaten paths, exploring remote paths, diving into the heart of Germany, seeing it in its purity, tasting at the root of German life...then a knowledge of the German language is all important, indispensable. To the pedestrian in many of the remote districts, the most beautiful scenery is presented.

All over South Germany and especially in Baden, are innumerable beautiful walks and highways, so that tramping is very enjoyable, and the cheapest and healthiest mode of traveling. At this time of the year you see upon the small farms the Bauer and Bauer women hard at work preparing for summer. Villages are not widely separated, and in many of the old, out-of-the-way towns much historical, Characteristic

FRANK JEFFERSON ROBERSON

and novel interest is found. These dingy old towns have remained small for centuries, are still small for there is no more land to spread; but many contain handsome edifices, cathedrals and architectural buildings from Roman time to the present. In Durlach, a short distance from Carlsruhe, upon a high hill, is an old Roman watch tower in the form of a square and built of red sandstone. From its position it commands an extensive view of the surrounding country. The old tower has withstood many sieges, the castle being entirely destroyed by French cannon. Rastatt, also in the rear from Carlsruhe, being small and almost entirely a fortress, would not enhance travelers; but in one of the apartments of the palace the peace between France and Austria, which terminated the Spanish War of Succession, was signed. It was also in the adjacent wood and congress between Austria and Germany, the French delegates were so barbarously murdered by Austrian hussars. The manufacturing town of Eutingen, about an hour's tramp from Durlach, has a lovely situation at the foot of a mountain of the Black Forest. Water flowing down from the mountains flows rapidly through the town, affording excellent waterpower to the many factories.

Paper has been made in Eutingen since 1482. The town was once a fortress and surrounded by a heavy wall, part of which is still standing. The castle is now used as a military school. Entering a dorf, or country village, you always find people upon the irregular, dingy streets, and if the day is pleasant, windows of low, heavy houses are thrown open and occupied either by the old man with his long pipe, the old woman with her never-ending work, the rosy-faced Bauer maiden, or a number of dirty faced children. One family does not occupy an entire house, but a small house is occupied by several families.

These towns are almost nests for children, and upon the streets they are innumerable, running about in their big wooden shoes, rolling hoops, spinning tops etc. Nurse girls walk to and fro, rolling about the big German baby wagon, not infrequently occupied by two or three young subjects for military schools. The Bauer women work very hard, and from their hard work in the fields and streets are naturally rough looking. You see them scraping in the street, digging in the field, beside the large fountain carrying heavy tubs of water upon the head, in fact the head is made a receptacle for all bundles, the neck is therefore stout. They are not generally tall but of heavy build; seldom wear a hat, hair oft-times faded, dress short, long woollen stockings and heavy shoes. Their earnings are very poor but they appear contented. The men do not kill themselves with work, do not make much, smoke plenty of tobacco and have time to sit and drink their national drink.

These dorfs contain many summer gardens provided with tables and green trimmings and often in these summer gardens is music and dancing. The young man tramping about, wishing a little amusement, if he knows the Bauer dance, can dance. The Bauer maidens will most always dance with you. The country people are good-natured and oft-times tramping about in a mountain village they will give you shelter, charging very little, and sometimes nothing. An evening spent with a country Ger-

FRANK JEFFERSON ROBERSON

Man family is interesting. German in these southern small villages is bad enough, and a variety of dialects are spoken.

You find in Catholic villages, also often upon the highways, many crucifixes in stone, and quite large, with such inscriptions: "O, ye wanderer, pass not by without a moment's thought of Him who suffered upon the cross for sinners." Accommodations in villages, although not fine is comfortable; the uncarpeted rooms are supplied with few chairs, table, washstand and narrow bed, containing a bulky feather covering about a foot thick. Eating is plain, but after a day's tramp, good; in the morning coffee only is served; dinner is about the only regular meal; supper is served a-la-carte. The wealth and grandeur of large cities, pleasure, artificial and natural beauty of watering places, all have an enticing influence upon the tourist; but life in one city is about the same as life in another, whether that be in America or in Europe, and so to one wishing to see real German life and to enjoy beautiful and various scenery, there can be no more enjoyable and healthier way than by tramping from one German dorf to another."

Fr. J. Roberson

As early as 1897 Mr. Roberson came to Sumner in the Art Department and began the work in charcoal, water color, designing, sketching, modeling, posing, leather craft, wood tooling, copper tooling, Frieze work. He was famous for taking his classes out on trips to sketch. He instilled in the students an appreciation for the best in art.

At the new Sumner he expanded the art activities to stage craft and the art department cooperated with the other departments whenever requested. Along with Mr. Huffman and Mr. Hamilton he taught a phase of photography (Photography and Art Composition) while they taught Photography and Physics and Photography and Chemistry respectively.

He continued his studies while teaching at Sumner at the University of Minnesota and the Normal Art School at Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Roberson was a devoted family man. His wife Mrs. Jessie Roberson was one of the early kindergarten teachers in the St. Louis Public Schools. His daughter Laurabelle is now a teacher in the St. Louis Public Schools. He started his three sons on the road to be successful architects. In St. Louis and elsewhere in the United States stand homes, hotels, churches and buildings designed by F.J. Roberson. The Antioch Baptist Church sanctuary in St. Louis, homes built by former students and friends were designed by Mr. Roberson.

After leaving Sumner High, he taught Art at the new Vashon High School. It was from the latter school that he retired... leaving many students living in many different places...but grateful that they had had Mr. Roberson for their Art teacher.

JOHN MERCER LANGSTON

The following headline and article appeared in the St. Louis Globe Democrat JUNE 1901.

A RECORD WITHOUT PRECEDENT

Representatives of Three Generations of a colored Family Graduated from the Same College...Hon. John M. Langston, His Son, A.D. Langston, of St. Louis, and His Grandson, John M. Langston.

Mr. A.D. Langston, of St. Louis, Principal of the Dumas School, will attend the commencement exercises at Oberlin College on June 19, his son John Mercer Langston, being a member of the graduating class. Young Mr. Langston is the first in the third generation of his family who have been graduated from the famous Ohio institution of learning.

His grandfather, the Hon. John M. Langston, was a graduate of Oberlin in 1849, and from the Theological school of this college in 1853.

His father, Arthur D. Langston, was graduated in 1877. John Mercer, the first grandson of the grand old man whose namesake he is, is to graduate from Oberlin next week, and the second grandson, Carroll Napier Langston, will graduate in two years.

It is an unusual thing for representatives of three generations of the white race to graduate from the same college, but the Langston record is believed to be without precedent in the colored race.

While thousands of colored men in all parts of the United States sit dumbly by waiting for the good things that shall come to them "When the gates lift up their heads," the Washingtons, the Bruces and the Langstons are breaking down the barriers for themselves, and casting aside the chains of ignorance that they may be free to walk in righteousness and uprightness wher'er He leadeth. There are not many white men in the United States who can point to as proud a record as the Langstons. There are not many young men graduating this month whose grandfathers and fathers before them have stood to receive the highest honors a college can bestow. When generation after generation seek knowledge in this way who can say that the gates have not already lifted up their heads?

In a letter of congratulation to the proud father of the young Oberlin graduate Mr. F. Louis Soldan, superintendent of the St. Louis schools, refers to the fact that grandfather, father and son have all been graduated from the same college as most remarkable. He says:

"It is a great achievement, to the colored race that its best men appreciate the value of higher education, and by their own example induce colored

JOHN MERCER LANGSTON

YOUTH

youths of good natural gifts and talents to follow their lead. "through labor and education to good citizenship" is a motto which ought to be ever present to the young people of the colored race. You have been for a long time connected with our St. Louis public schools, "continues Mr. Soldan. "I think for about twenty-four or twenty-five years, and have always held a position of trust. Your record in the schools is unblemished, and your services are sincerely appreciated by all that know them. If I were to single out any special point in your school career which appeals to me more strongly than others, I should find it in the missionary work which you are doing in constantly inducing colored children to go to school, or in encouraging those who are likely to drop out to continue and finish their education. You have induced your teachers to call at the homes of the parents for this purpose, and you have done so yourself. This work, while not strictly required by any rule or regulation of the board, is an effort for which every friend of education will praise you."

This is the keynote of the character of the Langstons, a thirst for knowledge and an indomitable desire to conquer every difficulty in the way of attaining it.

Mr. Langston's father, Arthur D. Langston was born in Northern Ohio August 3, 1855 the first born to the marriage of the Hon. John M. Langston to Miss Caroline M. Wall, daughter of Col. C.M. Wall of South Carolina. She too was a graduate of Oberlin. Arthur D. Langston graduated from Oberlin with an A.B. in 1877 and an M.A. in 1885. He began teaching in St. Louis in 1877 the first year Negro teachers were employed. Later, he was made Principal of Dessalines School, then Dumas School where he was serving when he died.

Mr. Langston was born in St. Louis, Missouri December 10, 1879. His mother, Mrs. Carolyn W. Langston was loved in our community as a sweet Christian mother...devoted to her husband and two sons John Mercer and Carroll Napier Langston.

Although there existed separate schools in the city of St. Louis for colored children and white children and Mr. Langston's father was teaching up town in Dessalines School, Mrs. Langston took her two sons to the Shepard School which was near their home and they were admitted to the Kindergarten.

Mr. Langston completed the work of the first six grades in the Shepard School and completed the seventh and eighth grade work at the Dessalines School where his father was principal.

JOHN MERCER LANGSTON

His preparatory days were spent at Oberlin Academy from 1894 to 1897. And his college days, from 1897 to 1901 were also spent at Oberlin. He graduated from Oberlin Magna cum laude and was the first Negro in St. Louis to win Phi Beta membership.

At Tuskegee Institute his teaching career began under the late Booker T. Washington. He taught at Tuskegee from 1902 - 1904 when he returned home and began teaching Latin in Sumner High School. From 1904 - 1912 he was an instructor in Latin, and from 1912 - 1918 he was an instructor in German.

As an instructor in Modern Languages the work and worth of Mr. Langston will never fade from the memory of his students. It was the thorough way in which he taught, finesse with which he rounded out his work. Nothing was permitted to be done that wasn't well done. Whatever he sponsored...whether it be a German Club, a dramatic play or what not, one could be assured that it would have the Langston polish and finish which was as flawless as humanly possible. Nothing was done hastily. All the necessary time was taken to produce a piece of work worthy of commendation.

After leaving Sumner, Mr. Langston served as Principal of the new Richard Hill Cole School erected 1931 later, of the Cote Brilliant School when it was first opened to Negroes. It was from the Cote Brilliant School that Mr. Langston retired.

The passion for his work; the deep love for his students; his continued encouragement and advice to them has endeared the name of John Mercer Langston to all he ever taught.

HARRY LAIRD PHILLIPS

On June 30, 1877 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Harry Laird, the oldest of four children was born to Rev. Henry Laird Phillips and Sarah Elizabeth Cole.

Rev. Phillips was an Episcopal priest born in Jamaica, British West Indies and educated in the Moravian School. He came to Philadelphia in 1870. Later, he studied at the Philadelphia Divinity School. Rev. Phillips served as rector of the Church of the Crucifixion until his retirement in 1925. He became an Arch Deacon, and in 1947 at the time of his death he was 100 years of age.

Sarah Elizabeth Cole and her family were native Philadelphians. Her sister Dora became a school teacher in Philadelphia. Her other sister Rebecca was a general practicing physician in Philadelphia.

Rev. Phillips, his wife Sarah and their four children Harry Laird, Albert, Theodore and Rebecca who died at the age of five, lived much like a typical minister's family. Rev. Phillips was a

HARRY LAIRD PHILLIPS

lover of fine music and played the piano. He encouraged his children to hear, to enjoy, and to play the music of the great musicians. In fact, he longed for the day to come when Harry Laird would become the organist of his church.

After graduation from the elementary school, Harry was the first colored boy to enter and graduate from the Northeast Manual Training High School of Philadelphia. Here he studied: Chemistry, Physics, English, German, Mathematics, Mechanical Drawing and shop work. Today, Mr. Phillips has a rather vivid recollection of his high school Principal Mr. C. Hanford Henderson who impressed him, then a teen-ager, as a kind but firm Christian gentleman....one most efficient in administering the school and guiding the student body.

In high school, Harry had little time for extra curricular activities. During his leisure moments he frequented concerts and recitals especially those sponsored by the leading church groups and cultural groups of Philadelphia of that day.

COLLEGE DAYS....following his graduation from the Northeast Manual Training High School in 1894, he entered the University of Pennsylvania. In 1898 he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University. As a university student, he pursued advanced courses in Physics, Chemistry, German, English, Mathematics and also studied the theory of engineering, practical work with the telephone and telegraph. About the only recreative activity Harry engaged in was to play tennis on one of the University teams during his Junior and Sophomore years.

EMPLOYMENT...For about a year after graduation from college, he found employment at an electrical plant and tried working in his home town. This job did not prove too satisfactory and Rev. Phillips suggested to his son to try teaching. His first teaching position was at the High Point Agricultural and Mechanical College at High Point, North Carolina in 1899. Here he taught English, Mathematics and Industrial Arts. After one year of service, he accepted a teaching position at Alabama A and M College at Normal, Alabama. Mr. Phillips remained here for two years and taught English, Mathematics and Industrial Arts.

In 1902, Mr. Phillips began teaching at Tuskegee Institute under the presidency of the late Booker T. Washington. At Tuskegee, the Mechanical Drawing classes were quite large enough for him to give instruction in this one subject during the two years he taught in this department.

Two lasting friendships were begun at Tuskegee. First, he began teaching the same year with John Mercer Langston, a recent graduate from Oberlin, and in 1904 both left Tuskegee to come to St. Louis to teach at the Charles Sumner High School. At Tuskegee, he also met Miss Azellie Thomas who left for Boston, Massachusetts to study nursing when he left to teach in St. Louis.

HARRY LAIRD PHILLIPS

The marriage of Harry Laird Phillips and Miss Thomas in 1907 in St. Louis was blessed with the birth of one son, Harry Laird, Jr. who died in early childhood and one daughter, Winifred.

Winifred attended Sumner High School for two years before leaving for the Girls' Latin School at Boston, Massachusetts. She later attended and graduated from Wellesley. Mrs. Phillips passed in 1935. Winifred taught at Bennett College at Greensboro, North Carolina and also at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia. In 1937 she entered the New York school from which she graduated in 1941. Since then, Dr. Phippils has been a practicing physician in New York City and later became a member of the medical staff of the BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

AT SUMNER....Mr. Phillips served as an instructor from 1904 - 1947 when he retired. At first he taught English, Mathematics, Mechanical Drawing, but soon he was teaching nothing but Mechanical Drawing classes.

Mr. Phillips remembers that about 1914, at the request of Mr. Frank L. Williams, Principal of Sumner, he organized the first orchestra with three students. Miss Marie Harris was the first pianist and a most active worker for the organization. Abram McClenney and his sister Esther later became very active in building up a good orchestra. By 1916, sixteen students were enjoying this extra curricular activity, when Mr. J. Gerald Tyler took over and carried on in a most splendid way the work Mr. Phillips began.

In 1945 Mr. Phillips married Miss Mae E. Roberts. In April 1953 Mr. Phillips passed....beloved by his former students.

MISS LILLIAN VANDERBURG

Because of her modest manner and retiring disposition to shy away from all publicity, little is known of the life of this refined, cultured woman.

We found, however, that she was born in Springfield, Illinois, and lost both parents before she was twelve years of age. A devoted step-brother, a Mr. Allen reared her along with her brother and sister.

She was educated in the public schools of Springfield, Illinois and later went for special training in Domestic Science in Battle Creek, Michigan.

While waiting for a teaching position as a Domestic Science teacher in the high school in St. Louis, she taught Kindergarten in the St. Louis public schools.

MISS LILLIAN VANDERBURG

She came to teach sewing at Sumner in 1908 or earlier. In 1909, Miss Ida Burrell, of the Domestic Science Department, resigned and married Mr. James Walter Meyers, a graduate of Stanford University, a new member of the Sumner faculty in the Normal Department. Miss Vanderburg then became head of the Sewing Department at Sumner.

Miss Vanderburg traveled extensively and continued her studies on her own at Columbis University, New York, Harvard, University of Southern California at Los Angeles and at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Miss Vanderburg taught at Sumner until she was transferred to the new Vashon High School which opened September 1927. It was from Vashon High that she retired.

Her life's ambition was to help the youth she taught to be cultured, refined, not loud or boistrous..but intelligent, self-respecting citizens....firm in their convictions....determined in their purpose to make a success of their lives in spite of handicaps.

ANDREW J. GOSSIN

At the time of his retirement from the St. Louis Public School System, Mr. Gossin had the honor of being one of the oldest surviving members of the faculty of the Charles Sumner High School and Normal Training School.

He was born in Rodney, Mississippi in 1861. He received his early training in the private and public schools of Port Gibson, Mississippi. Later, he attended the preparatory school of Alcorn College at Alcorn, Mississippi, and in 1882 graduated from Alcorn College.

Before coming to St. Louis, Mr. Gossin was principal of a school in Hermanville, Mississippi. In St. Louis, he served for four years (1883-1887) as an assistant in the elementary schools. From (1887-1892) he was principal of public school number 10. And, for thirty-five years (1892-1927) he was an instructor in the Sumner High and Normal Training School.

FIRST GRADUATES OF SUMNER NORMAL TRAINING CLASS - June 1891

Luella A. Brown
Lulu T. Casey
Marietta Evans
Abbie M. Hisom
Julia S. Hunn

Priscilla A. Lewis
Anna O. Parram
Ida M. Peters
Ella E. Sevier
Jennie C. Smith

Mittie F. Smith
Elizabeth Washington
Emily B. Williams
Mattie Wilson

ANDREW J. GOSSIN

During the summer of 1910, Mr. Gossin studied at Harvard University. He further prepared himself by taking extension courses at Harris Teachers College in St. Louis under Dr. John W. Withers and Mrs. Fannie Lachmund. He also took correspondence courses with the International Accountants Society for one year and with the University of Iowa for noe-half year.

Mr. Gossin was known for his outstanding work as a teacher of English, Latin, Book-Keeping and Penmanship as well as a teacher of courses in Education in the Normal Department....SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL.

In 1927, Mr. Gossin became an instructor of Commercial subjects at the new Vashon High School, and retired from teaching while here.

While Principal of School number 10, Mr. Gossin married Miss Emma Vashon in 1891.

Miss Emma Vashon and John Pope were the first graduates of Sumner High School certified by the Board of Education in 1885. Immediately after graduation she began teaching Latin and English at Sumner.

Miss Vashon, sister of George B. and John B. Vashon was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1866. She received her elementary education in Washington, D.C. Later, she came to St. Louis with her family.

Mrs. Emma Vashon Gossin was also a graduate of the Moran School of Short-hand, located at 17th and Olive Streets in St. Louis. She stood so high in her work that the Principal, Mr. Moran stated that he would be glad to employ her as a teacher in his school.

Throughout her life-time Mrs. Gossin was active in religious, civic, educational, and cultural affairs in the city. For several years she was honored as the president of the Sumner Alumni Association. Both she and Mr. Gossin were devoted parents to their three children.

On Saturday, May 26, 1934 at 8:00 P.M. at the Pine Street Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association....Educators, Board Members, Colleagues, Former Students and Friends...honored Mr. Gossin with a testimonial banquet commemorating his fifty years of service as a teacher in the public schools of Saint Louis. The Mound City Teachers' Association sponsored this event..ONE NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN.

We remember him for his beautiful handwriting, and for his ability to train his students to keep a DAY-BOOK, a JOURNAL, and a LEDGER that would attract the attention of any business executive. He was a sweet, lovable, fatherly-type of a teacher, but took no foolishness from students. His personality commanded the respect of all. Until his death, he treasured and appreciated the affection of people.

JULIA GOODWIN CHILDS

Marion, Alabama was the birthplace of Julia Goodwin Childs. Marion was a center of religion, education and culture. Located here were Judson College for girls; the Marion Military Academy for boys; and the Congregational Church and School...known for its non-segregational and non-discriminatory practices among its parishoners.

To see colored tradesmen, mechanics and craftsmen operating their own shops and stores, was not an unusual sight. The colored citizens were chiefly, Republicans and Congregationalists.

Julia was one of the nine children born to Stephen Childs and Julia Goodwin. She recalls quite well her maternal grandmother, Francis Roberta Goodwin who after her marriage became Frances Broadnax. Grandmother Broadnax was highly respected in this community. She could read, write, and was well versed in history.

SUCCESS STORIES

There is little wonder that the record of the Childs family is but an accumulation of success stories when one learns that from generation to generation each child has been indoctrinated with the idea that he must go forth to serve God and his fellowman.

James Childs, her paternal grandfather, was a Baptist minister. STEPHEN CHILDS, her father, was the second oldest of eight children. MAGGIE, the oldest, died quite young. CHARLES, was one of the first shoe-makers in Marion, Alabama. Later, he set up a prosperous business in Selma, Alabama where he died. JAMES, served in the Treasury Department at Washington, D.C. forty years. PATTIE, who moved to Cincinnati, Ohio taught with President James Patterson at the State Normal School at Marion, Alabama...now located at Montgomery, Alabama. JULIA, was the Kindergarten teacher at Lincoln School Marion, Alabama; WILLIAM, became the first colored Police Lieutenant in the city of Chicago, Illinois. ROBERTA, moved to Philadelphia with her illustrious son, Judge William Hastie.

Stephen Childs, her father, was a shoe-maker and later owned and operated the largest grocery and bakery business in Marion. He was also a trustee of Tusgegee Institute from its founding until his death in 1897. Nine children were born to Stephen Childs and his wife Julia. Two died in infancy. The seven who grew to adulthood were: NELLIE, who was educated in the Congregational School at Marion; graduated from Talladega and taught in Chattanooga, Tennessee. MARTHA, who graduated from Atlanta University and later taught Chemistry at Tuskegee...also in the Baltimore high school Baltimore, Maryland. She became the wife of Bishop Bray of the C.M.E. Church. In 1927 their daughter Martha, now deceased, graduated from Sumner High School at the age of 14 years; received her Masters' Degree at

JULIA GOODWIN CHILDS

New York University. NATHAN, went into business with his father and a son of his became a Major in World War II. AMZI, while a student at Atlanta University was compelled to leave school at the age of 16 to return to Marion to carry on the business because of the death of his father. SUMNER, studied dentistry, but he too returned from college and helped carry on his father's business until his death in 1949. ROBERTA, for the past thirty years has served as head of the clerical department of the Eden Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

JULIA, the subject of this sketch, inherited many fine traits of character from such a rich, stimulating family background. She was reared a Congregationalist and grew up in that section of town where the Congregational Church and school were located. She remembers eating at the long dining-room table with the white linen cloth on it. Her father was usually home for breakfast and the noon-day meal. Daily, the scripture was read; prayers were offered, and Bible verses were recited. Her father's favorite verse was, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Ps. 91:1. The family spent many happy hours together in the evening reading and singing. Such magazines as YOUTH COMPANION and the LADIES HOME JOURNAL were read. Father Childs offered the children 10 cents each a week to learn a new song in the Congregational hymn book. Such friends of the family as Dr. Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver usually stopped with the Childs family whenever they came to Marion.

SCHOOLING

From the Kindergarten through high school, Julia attended the Lincoln Normal School of Marion. About 50-75 pupils were enrolled in the entire school. The children of the faculty members, minister of the church and other Congregationalists attended. Her kindergarten teacher was her own Aunt Julia. Later, Miss Lucy Gant, of Talladega College was her teacher. Miss Gant became the wife of Explorer Shepherd, a member of the British Geographical Society.

Julia attended the high school department of the Lincoln Normal School for three and one-half years with just two classmates.... a cousin, Arthur Davis, and the minister's son Willie Larkin of English descent. At the time of his death, Arthur was a noted physician in Huntsville, Alabama. Among the subjects these three studied were: Chemistry, Physics, Drawing, Music and Sciences. The two teachers who were most outstanding in her school life were: Mr. Arthur Little of Harvard, of the A.E. Little Book Company Boston, Massachusetts..... Teacher of Mathematics and English and Miss Willard of Chicago University and Oberlin College, teacher of Latin using the Roman pronunciation.

After completing the high school course in three and a half years, she went college.

JULIA GOODWIN CHILDS

Miss Childs began her college education at Atlanta University. Her classmates there were: Alonzo Brown, who later taught Mathematics at Howard University...and the late Ophelia Brooks. She remembers, vividly her teachers....SCIENCE - Prof. Edgar Webster of Chicago University; GREEK and LATIN - Dr. Adams of Amherst; PUBLIC SPEAKING - Adrian Herndon of Sargent; SOCIOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY and GERMAN - Dr. W. E.B. Dubois. Miss Childs graduated from Atlanta University with a straight "A" record and was valedictorian of her class. Her thesis in Sociology, "MARION AND ITS FAMILY LIFE" was completed under the direct instruction and supervision of Dr. Dubois. He was so well pleased with this research study that a copy was sent to Washington, D.C.

The graduation address was delivered by the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, then a member of the Board of Atlanta University.....later Secretary of War under President Woodrow Wilson. The subject of Miss Childs' graduation speech was "WILL POWER."

While at Atlanta U. Miss Childs recalls having heard the young artists Roland Hayes and Paul Lawrence Dunbar in recitals, and also having had as guest lecturers Susan B. Anthony, Julia Ward Howe and Dr. Mary Shaw, the noted woman minister. It was at the receptions following a visit, that students came to meet and to talk with the many famous people who came to visit Atlanta University.

LATER LIFE - Shortly after graduation while on a visit to relatives in St. Louis, Miss Childs was encouraged by Mr. David E. Gordon, Principal of L'Ouverture School to apply for a teaching position in the Sumner High School. Before leaving the city, she called at the Central office for a conference with Superintendent F. Louis Soldan. Following this conference, Miss Childs was offered a teaching position at Sumner High School, 15th and Walnut, without further examination.

At Sumner, Miss Childs was regarded as a teacher of superior quality. She brought to the student body in 1904 a background of culture and a spirit that inspired each student to do and to be his best. She taught Latin and Algebra to high school students....English and Psychology to the Sumner Normal students.

Of Mr. Waring, the Principal, with whom she was most intimately associated as a teacher assistant, "NO MORE PERFECT GENTLEMAN EVER DREW BREATH." In Mr. Waring's last days before retirement in 1908, Miss Childs rendered valuable service both to the school and to the Principal whose office adjoined her classroom.

In 1912 Miss Childs married her third cousin Dr. William Parrish Curtis, a prominent physician in St. Louis. He was a widower with a thirteen year old son Guy Curtis. Dr. Guy Curtis is now a prominent dentist in South Bend Indiana. To the marriage with Miss Childs, three children were born. JULIAN died in infancy. William

JULIA GOODWIN CHILDS

Childs Curtis, former dean of the School of Engineering at Tuskegee received his A.B. and Masters' Degree from the University of Illinois ...his Masters and Doctorate in electrical engineering from Harvard University. Constance Curtis, City Editor of the Amsterdam News, New York City, New York received her B.A. in Literature from Chicago University and her Master of Arts in Drama from Columbia University, New York City. Both William and Constance were outstanding students and graduates of Sumner High School.

The late Mrs. Curtis was a Case Worker number one or Intake worker at the St. Louis Welfare Association. For four years she served as a member of the Board of Curators of Lincoln University at Jefferson City, Missouri under the administrations of Governors Hyde and Caulfield. Her appointment, oddly enough, came through the recommendation of the first Negro State Representative, Walthall Moore, a native of her home town Marion, Alabama. Mrs. Curtis was the first known Negro woman in the USA to be appointed to a state board of Curators. She was also a candidate for membership on the Board of Education of the city of St. Louis.

Mrs. Curtis delighted in meeting, chatting, and encouraging her former students. Her erect posture, sparkling smile and brilliant wit with words of wisdom attracted Miss Childs (so called by the old Sumnerites) to the boys and girls she never forgot.

PETER HUMPHRIES CLARK

Mr. Clark was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in March 1829. In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned his grandfather, William Clark, with Captain Meriwether Lewis to explore the newly acquired Pacific Northwest Territory (the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition). William Clark's son Michael Clark was the father of Peter Humphries... his first born.

Peter H. as he was called, attended private schools, Gilmore's High School and later, was sent to Oberlin College. He soon became a pioneer educator heading the movement, at the close of the Civil War, for the education of Negroes in the public schools of Ohio. He was Principal of Gaines High School for thirty years. For some years he was the highest paid Principal in the city. This was because his school was the only one that combined all twelve grades in one building.

He lead a most colorful political life before coming to St. Louis. He wrote fearlessly with Frederick Douglass and espoused the cause of the working man and especially that of the Negro.

PETER HUMPHRIES CLARK

Mr. William J. Simmons in his book "MEN OF MARK", published in 1887, devotes ten pages to the life of Mr. Clark. This account includes his views on and activities in the interest of FREEDOM; and also his religious beliefs as a staunch UNITARIAN.

Before coming to St. Louis Wilberforce University had conferred upon him the title of MASTER OF ARTS as one of the leading Negro educators in America. Mr. Clark was also a devoted family man and saw to it that his children received the best education possible.

His daughter Ernestine was the first colored girl, without denying her race, admitted to the Cincinnati Normal School. Later she taught. His daughter Consuelo graduated from the McMicken School of Art, and also from the School of Medicine of Boston University. Later, she practiced in Cincinnati. His son Herbert taught at Alcorn College in Mississippi. He was also deputy sheriff for two years, and gauger in the first Ohio collection district.

Mr. Clark retired from teaching in the Cincinnati schools in 1886. After one of his daughters had moved to St. Louis with her family, Mr. Clark joined her and began his teaching career at OLD SUMNER HIGH. In St. Louis he met and associated with another descendant of William Clark, who in late years had married and settled here.

AT SUMNER. Mr. Clark, in spite of his advanced years (1905-1909) possessed the intelligence; had the power; and displayed the quick wit that held us spell-bound at times when he illustrated and interpreted the Masterpieces in English Literature as well as the manner in which he explained the fundamental facts and principles of BOTANY and PHYSIOLOGY. He had a story, a joke, or a comment to fit any occasion..... during class period or study period if and when necessary. Once he told us that BANANAS ARE GOLD IN THE MORNING, SILVER AT NOON, but LEAD AT NIGHT. We know now what he meant.

As an instructor, Mr. Clark never tried to force his beliefs, religious or other, upon us. He did impress upon us the importance of thinking and acting for ourselves. He taught us that with freedom goes a great responsibility. How well do we remember the motto that hung above his classroom door: "BE NOT LIKE DUMB DRIVEN CATTLE." This motto has more significance for us today, than in 1909.

DR. CHARLES HENRY TURNER

This noted scientist was born in Cincinnati, Ohio February 3, 1857

There he attended the elementary and high school. In 1891 he completed the college course at the University of Cincinnati, and received his degree of Master of Science in 1892. At the University of Chicago, he earned his degree of Doctor of Philosophy summa cum laude in 1907. He was considered an authority on the behavior of ANTS and BEES, and up to the end of his career reported his findings to scientific publications. He brought a wealth of information to the SUMNERITES.

What an honor to study in the classroom of a man of this caliber!

MRS. HELEN BURRELL SMITH

Although born, reared and educated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Helen Burrell Smith spent the major portion of her life serving the citizens of this community.

TAUGHT IN THE EAST - Prior to coming to St. Louis to teach, she attended the Institute for Colored Youth, later known as Cheyney Training School. Upon the recommendation of her instructor Miss Belden, Miss Burrell completed her training at the Philadelphia Cooking School of which the noted Mrs. Sarah Tyson Rorer was Principal.

Her first teaching position was in Suddlersville, Maryland. Later, she traveled as a demonstrator for the N.K. Fairbanks Company with Mrs. Rorer. It was while demonstrating at the Chicago World's Fair in 1898 that Miss Burrell met her cousin Mr. David E. Gordon, then Principal of the Attucks School, who persuaded her to apply for a teaching position in St. Louis.

CAME TO ST. LOUIS. About the year 1899 she began teaching Domestic Science to the seventh and eighth grade pupils of the elementary schools and also the regular high school students. Miss Burrell was the first Negro Domestic Science teacher in the St. Louis Public Schools.

MARRIAGE AND LATER LIFE. After eleven years of pioneer work in her field, she married Mr. Henry Abner Smith of Hope, Arkansas. Mr. Smith had operated his own tailor shop in St. Louis since 1894 and was then manager of the Union Club at Jefferson and Lafayette. Throughout her husband's business career as a tailor, a haberdasher and operator of a delicatessen, she was a true business partner.

Mrs. Smith distinguished herself as an active social worker. She was among the first group of volunteer workers of the Mound City Social Settlement; a member of the Provident Association; a pioneer YWCA worker; first secretary of the local branch of the NAACP; a Board member of the Urban League; a teacher of dietetics to the nurses of the Provident Hospital and also secretary for ten years; a strong advocate of Women's Suffrage; a member of the Informal Dames Club; a faithful member of the All Saints Episcopal Church.

She radiated joy. This was most apparent to her many friends who joined her April 27, 1943 the day she celebrated her Thirty-third Wedding Anniversary.

She loved people. She was devoted to her former pupils who loved her deeply until death came October 5, 1945 at the age of 75 years. There was always a very warm spot in her great heart for the class of June '09. We never forgot her exemplary life.

Mrs. Smith was survived by her husband, a daughter, Mrs. Helen Randolph, a son Henry Smith of St. Louis and her sister Mrs. Ida Burrell Myers who also taught Domestic Science at Sumner High School.





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